

Major New Mexico employers sign STEM education proclamation

November 1, 2014



Proclamation

STEM Education in New Mexico

WHEREAS, strong Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) educational programs are vital to the intellectual and economic future of the state of New Mexico and further, the United States of America;

WHEREAS, New Mexico STEM academies, schools, and businesses have made strong efforts in working to close the disparity between the number of STEM field college graduates and the number of skilled workers needed in our industry;

WHEREAS, a career in STEM fields requires an early start;

WHEREAS, as major employers in the state of New Mexico, we are committed to strengthening the workforce pipeline; in 2013, we invested over \$80 million in STEM education for New Mexico; collectively we employ 26,172 people; we have contributed more than 443,426 volunteer hours.

Six major employers in New Mexico are collaborating to put New Mexico on the forefront of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education and workforce development. The employers—Air Force Research Laboratory, Intel, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Northrop Grumman, PNM Resources and Sandia National Laboratories—signed a *STEM Education in New Mexico* proclamation earlier this summer and will hold a press conference on November 22 at the New Mexico Electric Car Challenge.

The six employers, who collectively employ more than 26,000 people, already have invested over \$80 million in STEM education for New Mexico and contributed over 444,000 volunteer hours in 2013.

Specific actions that the employers intend to collaborate on include addressing voluntary targets and reporting requirements in Senate Memorial 38 and House

Memorial 19 from the 2014 Legislature; leading the way among a growing list of partners; sparking math and science inspiration for New Mexicans; cultivating curiosity; engaging students in hands-on, minds-on activities; and providing research-based, high-quality professional development for New Mexico educators.

"Strong math and science education," the proclamation states, "helps create pioneers of the future that will help move this state to a higher level of excellence."

The proclamation is one of the many accomplishments realized so far in response to a two-day STEM Action Planning Summit in late 2012, which brought together a wide range of New Mexico professionals who are interested in STEM education.

The summit participants addressed three main goals:

- Cultivate top-notch, inspiring K-12 math and science teachers.
- Make STEM education more relevant, exciting and rigorous in the K-12 classroom.
- Recruit and retain more STEM college students.

To ensure progress toward the goals, a STEM Collective Impact Team was formed, consisting of six working groups. The *STEM Education in New Mexico* proclamation is the direct result of the Partner-Investment Working Group's efforts.

The November 22 press conference for the proclamation will take place at 10:00 a.m. as part of the New Mexico Electric Car Challenge. See this issue's <u>For Your Calendar</u> section for details.

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